

MARICOPA COUNTY LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREA

Geography

The Maricopa County WIA Local Workforce Investment Area is composed of that portion of the county outside the City of Phoenix and less the Native American reservations. It includes the major communities of Chandler, Gilbert, Glendale, Mesa, Peoria, Scottsdale, Sun City, and Tempe, as well as many smaller communities and unincorporated areas of the county. These areas include some of the fastest growing communities in the country.

Population

According to the most recent official population figures, produced by the US Census Bureau, 2000 data shows 3,072,149 people reside in Maricopa County. This resident population accounts for about 60 percent of state of Arizona's total population. In the ten years since the 1990 census Maricopa County's population grew by 45 percent, or roughly 3.8 percent annually compared to the state as a whole which grew over 40 percent for the decade. Phoenix is the largest city in the Local Workforce Investment Area, with an estimated population of 1,321,045. Mesa is the next largest city, with an estimated population of 396,375. Glendale is the next largest, with an estimated population of 218,812.

Income

According to data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis from 1990 to 1999, local total personal income in Maricopa County increased 97 percent compared to the State's roughly 90 percent. On a per capita basis, the gain of 46.7 percent was above the State's growth of 46.3 percent. Maricopa County per capita income was \$28,205 in 1999, about 12 percent above the state average, slightly up from the 11.7 percent above the state average in 1990. Average earnings per job increased 4 percent in 1999 – slightly less than the gain for the state at 4.1 percent. Average earnings per job for 1999 was \$33,448 compared to \$31,307 for the state, or 6.8 percent above the state.

Labor Force

The Maricopa County labor force grew roughly 2.2 percent each year from 1995 to 2000. Maricopa County employment figures grew about the same, with an average annual increase of 2.4 percent. This affected the unemployment rate downward from 3.4 percent in 1995 to 2.6 percent in 2000.

Employment

Total nonfarm employment in Maricopa County averaged 5.4 percent average yearly growth from 1995-2000. The largest growth occurred in services and

construction, which had average yearly growths of 7.3 and 7.2 percent respectively. The services industry is also the dominant industry in Maricopa County, employing over 512,000 workers in 2000. Trade was second with 366,400 workers. Finance, insurance & real estate (FIRE) also registered impressive gains at 6.7 percent per year. Transportation, communications and public utilities (TCPU) was not far behind registering a gain of 6.5 percent. There were no industries to lose employment during the period.

Growing and Declining

During the year 2000, the largest industry job growth was experienced in personnel supply services (+30,016 jobs), computer and data processing services (+9,684 jobs), and offices and clinics of medical doctors (+8,181 jobs). The largest employment losses appeared in commercial banks (-4,311 jobs), motor vehicles, parts and supplies (-3,487 jobs), and miscellaneous business services (-2852). For further details see the enclosed tables.

Forecast

Research Administration is forecasting employment to grow 1.2 percent in PY 01-02 and then accelerate to 2.5 percent in PY 02-03. Countywide unemployment is expected to increase from the PY 00-01 rate of 2.9 percent to 4.6 percent in PY 01-02 and then decrease slightly to 4.3 percent in PY 02-03. Unemployment in the non-reservation areas is expected to act similarly, rising from the PY 00-01 rate of 2.9 percent to 4.6 percent in PY 01-02 and then decreasing to 4.3 percent in PY 02-03.

WIA service deliverers face the challenge of shrinking area poverty pockets by training eligible clients for jobs that promise the necessary compensation to lift them from poverty. These last four years have been among the best of times for finding new employment opportunities.

Issues of Concern

- As job growth slows poverty initiatives will be more difficult to affect.
- Area growth will be hampered by a lack of adequate public transit.
- Declining air quality.

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security, Research Administration, November 2001.